

Appl. No. 10/599,056

Preliminary amendment: January 22, 2007

**Amendments to the claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 (original): A paint roller for applying paint onto a surface comprising:

a frustoconically-shaped applicator having:

a coupler end;

a distal end;

an external surface between the coupler end and the distal

end; and

a paint-absorbable member;

a circular integral guard disposed at the coupler end; and

a rolling guide disposed at the distal end

wherein the rolling guide coacts with a resilient means to permit rotation about an axis of rotation.

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2 (original): The paint roller of Claim 1, wherein the planar cross-section of the coupler end is not the same as the planar cross-section of the distal end.

3 (original): The paint roller of Claim 1, wherein the frustoconically-shaped applicator further comprising a chamber defined by the coupler end, the distal end and the external surface joining the coupler and distal ends; the chamber further having a plurality of perforations.

4 (original): The paint roller of Claim 3, wherein the chamber is accessible by a closable inlet.

5 (original): The paint roller of Claim 1, wherein the coupler end has a coupler to fit a handle.

6 (original): The paint roller of Claim 1, wherein the coupler end permits rotation of the paint applicator about an axis.

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7 (original): The paint roller of Claim 1, wherein the diameter of the integral guard is predetermined to allow the circular integral guard to contact the surface only when excessive force is used to apply paint.

8 (currently amended): The paint roller ~~rolling guide~~ of Claim 1, wherein the resilient means is radially-disposed about the axis of rotation of the frustoconically-shaped applicator.

9 (currently amended): The paint roller ~~rolling guide~~ of Claim 1, wherein the resilient means is held in place by a retainer.

10 (currently amended): The paint roller ~~rolling guide~~ of Claim 1, wherein the rolling guide permits eccentric rotation of the paint applicator in use.

11 (original): A method of selectively applying paint onto surfaces and surface corners, the method comprising:  
  
using a paint roller comprising a frustoconically-shaped applicator, and integral guard and a rolling guide,

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whereby

the integral guard prevents a paint-absorbable surface mounted on the applicator from being excessively compressed, thereby preventing an undersirably thick coat of paint from being applied, and the rolling guide permits paint to be precisely applied to surface corners and uneven surfaces.

12 (new): The paint roller of Claim 1, wherein the planar cross-section of the coupler end is the same as the planar cross-section of the distal end.